

1732

0426.04501
PATENT

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Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: TBA

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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Submission of this statement is not to be construed as an admission that any of the documents submitted herewith are “material” to the examination of this application or the patentability of the invention, as the term “material” is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b), nor as any admission that the documents submitted herewith even qualify as prior art references with respect to the above-referenced patent application.

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits of the above-identified application, no fee is required.

A copy of all documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

German Offenlegungsschrift DE 43 00 595 A1 is the priority document for and therefore the foreign counterpart of United States patent 5,513,445 also submitted herewith; since this English language counterpart of German Offenlegungsschrift DE 43 00 595 A1, which is effectively an English language translation thereof, is being submitted herewith, no concise explanation of the relevance of German Offenlegungsschrift DE 43 00 595 A1 is believed required under 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

German Offenlegungsschrift DE 43 00 060 A1 appears to disclose or at least relate to drying apparatus for granular resinous materials in which air is pumped through at least one chamber housing at least some of the resinous material to be dried, and therefore may be relevant to the patentability of at least one of the claims of the instant application.

European Patent Office document EP 1 288 600 A2 appears to disclose a tubular housing for downwardly receiving granular resinous material to be fluidically treated therein, perhaps by drying via air blown therethrough.

Applicant notes that the apparent 5 March 2003 publication date and the apparent 24 August 2001 priority date of European Patent Office document EP 1 288 600 A2 are both after the effective filing date of the instant application. Therefore, applicant submits that European Patent Office document EP 1 288 600 A2 does not qualify as a reference against which the patentability of any claim in the instant application may be evaluated, but does apparently represent the development of the relevant art subsequent to applicant's invention as disclosed and claimed in the instant patent application.

A prompt, thorough and favorable examination of the instant application is respectfully requested.

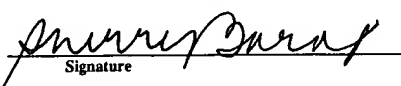
Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1943. This form is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9 July 2003


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Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10	
EXPRESS MAIL NO.:	EV334305883US
I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail - Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10, on the date indicated below, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
<u>July 9/2003</u> Date of Deposit	 Signature
	<u>Sherry Barag</u> Type or print name of person



Form PTO-1449 Modified List of Patent and Publications Cited by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Client Matter No. 40526.04501	Serial No. 09/883,837
	Applicant Stephen B. Maguire	
	Filing Date June 18, 2001	Group 1732

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass
	AA	5,513,445	5/1996	Farrag	34	362

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation YES NO	
	AB	DE 4300060	7/7/1994	Germany		X
	AC	DE 4300595	7/14/1994	Germany	X (see remarks)	
	AD	EP 1288600	3/5/2003	EPO		X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED